age to commercial tree species, even though it has the potential to do so. This study has shown that adults have a high, but unrealised, reproductive potential, and it is speculated that the impact of natural enemies on the immature stages is the mechanism of control.

Paropsines such as *Paropsis* and *Chrysophtharta* species in eastern Australia are known to cause significant damage to eucalypt regrowth and plantations (Carne 1966, Greaves 1966, deLittle pers. comm.) when they are little affected by natural enemies and *C. debilis* has been shown in this study (Table 2) to have the capacity to produce large numbers of viable progeny in the absence of natural enemies.

Whilst Western Australia currently has the fauna capable of containing *C. debilis*, any silvicultural practises which detrimentally impacts on this fauna could, in turn, have a releasing effect on the paropsine. Since little is known of the natural history of the various natural enemies, any impact may not be known before significant damage by paropsines is noticed. Data on the ecological requirements of selected species of natural enemies should be considered a priority.

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